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CHANGING TEMPO

WELCOME TO THE PLANET *MOBIUS*-- A WORLD *UNIQUE AND BEYOND* WHAT YOU KNOW FROM THE *SEGA GAMES*-- WHERE *SONIC* AND THE HEROIC *FREEDOM FIGHTERS* WORK TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE FORCES OF *EVIL!*

WOULD YOU *RELAX?*

WE'RE HERE TO HAVE SOME FUN!

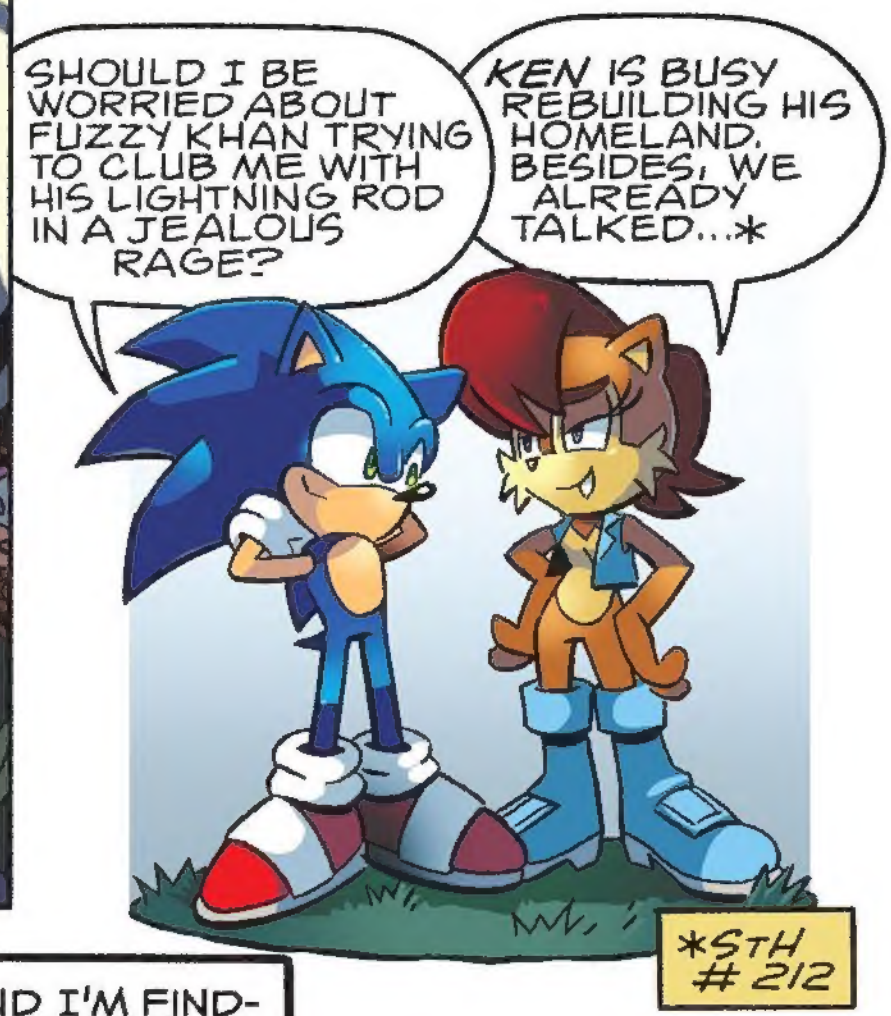
UH HUH...

WRITER: IAN FLYNN
PENCILS AND COVER ART: BEN BATES
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN
COLORS: MATT HERMS
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN
EDITOR: PAUL KAMINSKI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK
PRESIDENT: MIKE PELLERITO

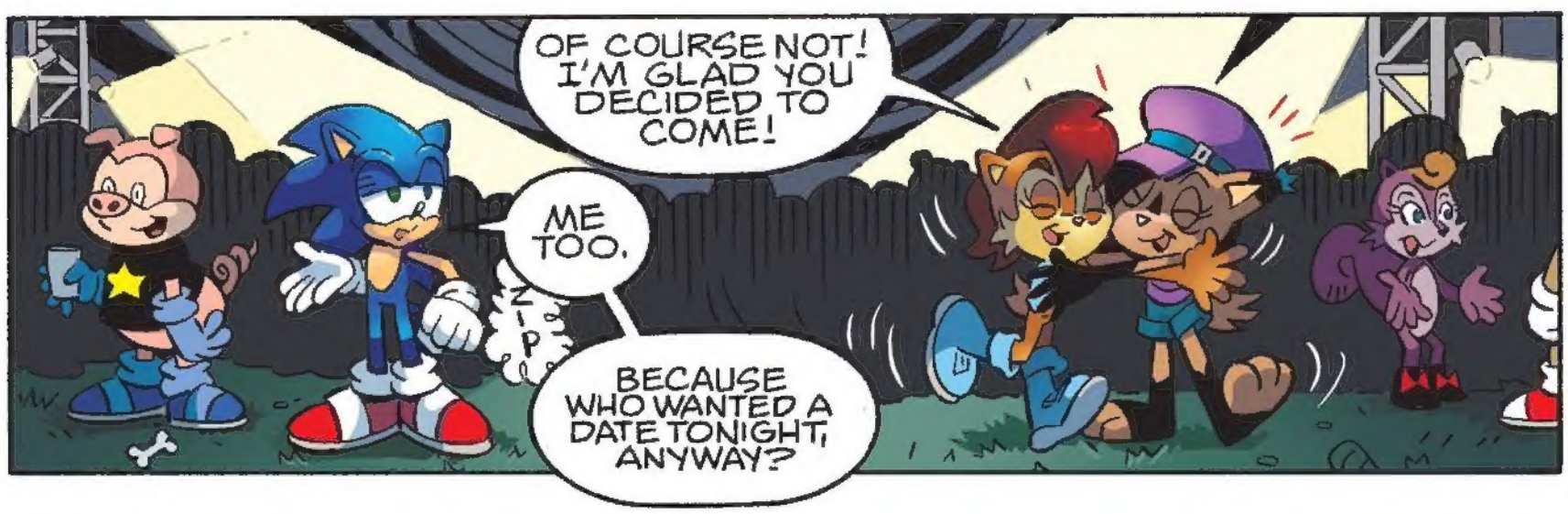
SPECIAL THANKS TO CINDY CHAU AND JERRY CHU AT SEGA LICENSING

SONIC, GEOFFREY BETRAYED US AND SHOT YOU IN THE BACK!*
RELAXATION HAS BEEN DIFFICULT LATELY.
EH, DETAILS. SAL, YOU ARE COMING TO THIS CONCERT... AND YOU'RE GONNA LIKE IT.
FORGET-ME-KNOTS
*SEE LAST ISSUE!
EVEN IF MINA ISN'T YOUR FAVORITE.
WHAT?! I GOT BOTH HER ALBUMS AT LAUNCH. WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?
'CAUSE WHEN MINA FIRST STARTED GETTING BIG...
...PRETTY MUCH ANY TIME I BROUGHT HER UP, YOU GOT ALL QUIET AND STUFF.
OH, THAT. I... I THOUGHT SHE WAS TRYING TO DATE YOU, AND I WAS JEALOUS.
YOU ...WAIT, WHAT?
SEE, SAL, THIS IS WHY WE SHOULD DO THIS "TALKING" THING MORE. WE COULD'VE SAVED OURSELVES A LOT OF ANGST.
I KNOW, I KNOW. I DON'T HANDLE CONFRONTATIONS WELL.
SO ALL THAT AWKWARDNESS AND TIME APART...
UNLESS THEY INVOLVE KILLER ROBOTS AND BLASTERS AND SUCH.
WELL, OF COURSE. THAT'S ALL EASY.

SO...WE'VE BEEN HANGING OUT A WHOLE LOT LATELY...
YES. AND?


SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT FUZZY KHAN TRYING TO CLUB ME WITH HIS LIGHTNING ROD IN A JEALOUS RAGE?
KEN IS BUSY REBUILDING HIS HOMELAND. BESIDES, WE ALREADY TALKED...*
*STH #212

...AND I'M FINDING OUT WHAT I WANT BEFORE DOING ANYTHING RASH.
RIGHT. 'CAUSE "BEING RECKLESS" IS MY THING. YOU'RE THE SENSIBLE ONE.
DOES THAT MAKE MY FUNCTION "THE THIRD WHEEL" TONIGHT?


OF COURSE NOT! I'M GLAD YOU DECIDED TO COME!
ME TOO.
ZIP
BECAUSE WHO WANTED A DATE TONIGHT, ANYWAY?

DIG THE NEW LOOK, BY THE WAY. HIGH POLY-GON COUNT, RIGHT?

HA-HA!

I THOUGHT I WOULD PROGRAM SOMETHING DIFFERENT...

...SINCE I'M STILL NOT SURE I'M WELCOME IN PUBLIC.

WHAT? *PSSSHT!* OF COURSE YOU ARE!

EVER SINCE THE IRON DOMINION'S INVASION, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ON EDGE. I'M PART OF THE CITY'S SYSTEMS. I... HEAR THINGS.*

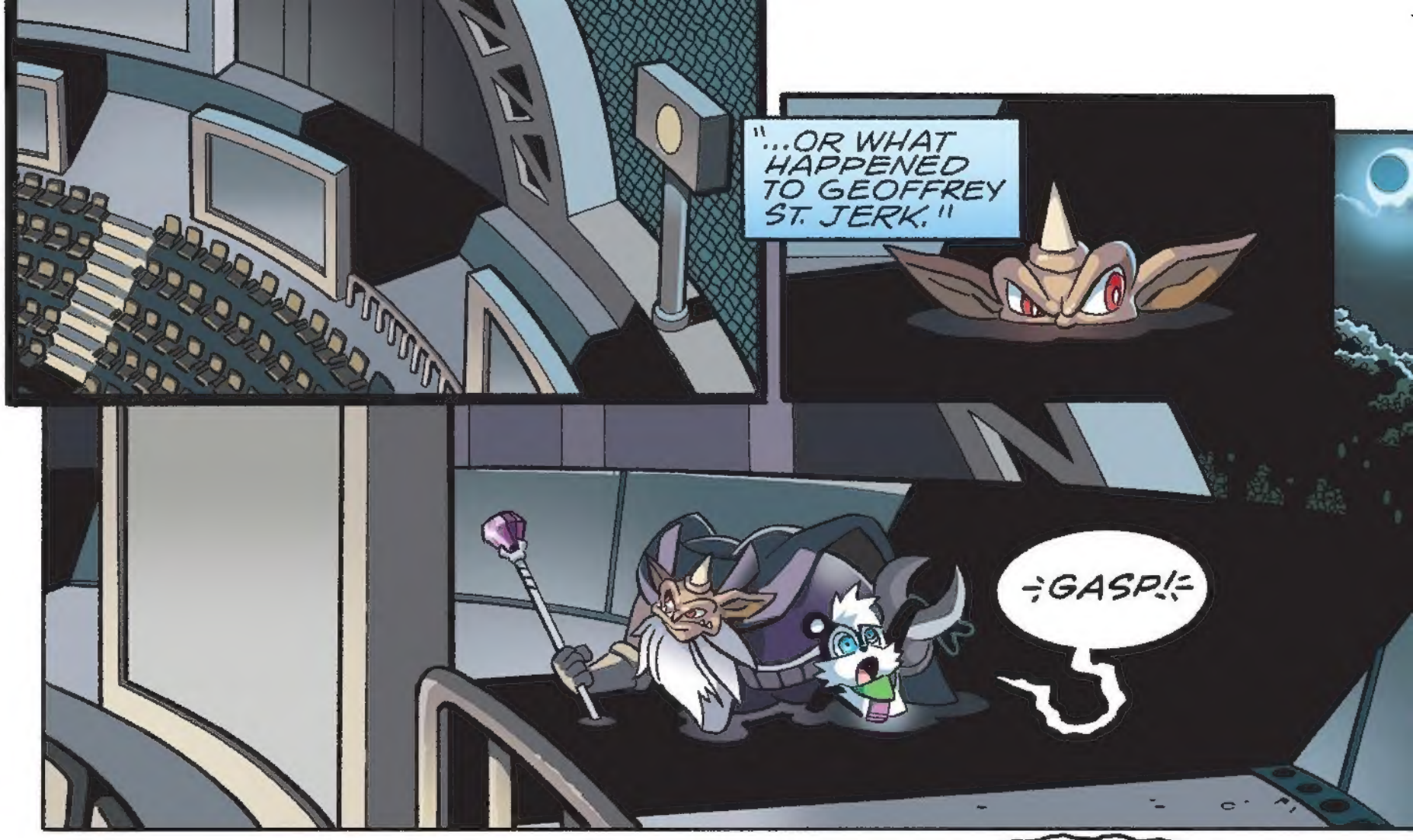
*CATCH THE ENTIRE EPIC SAGA IN STH #208-211.

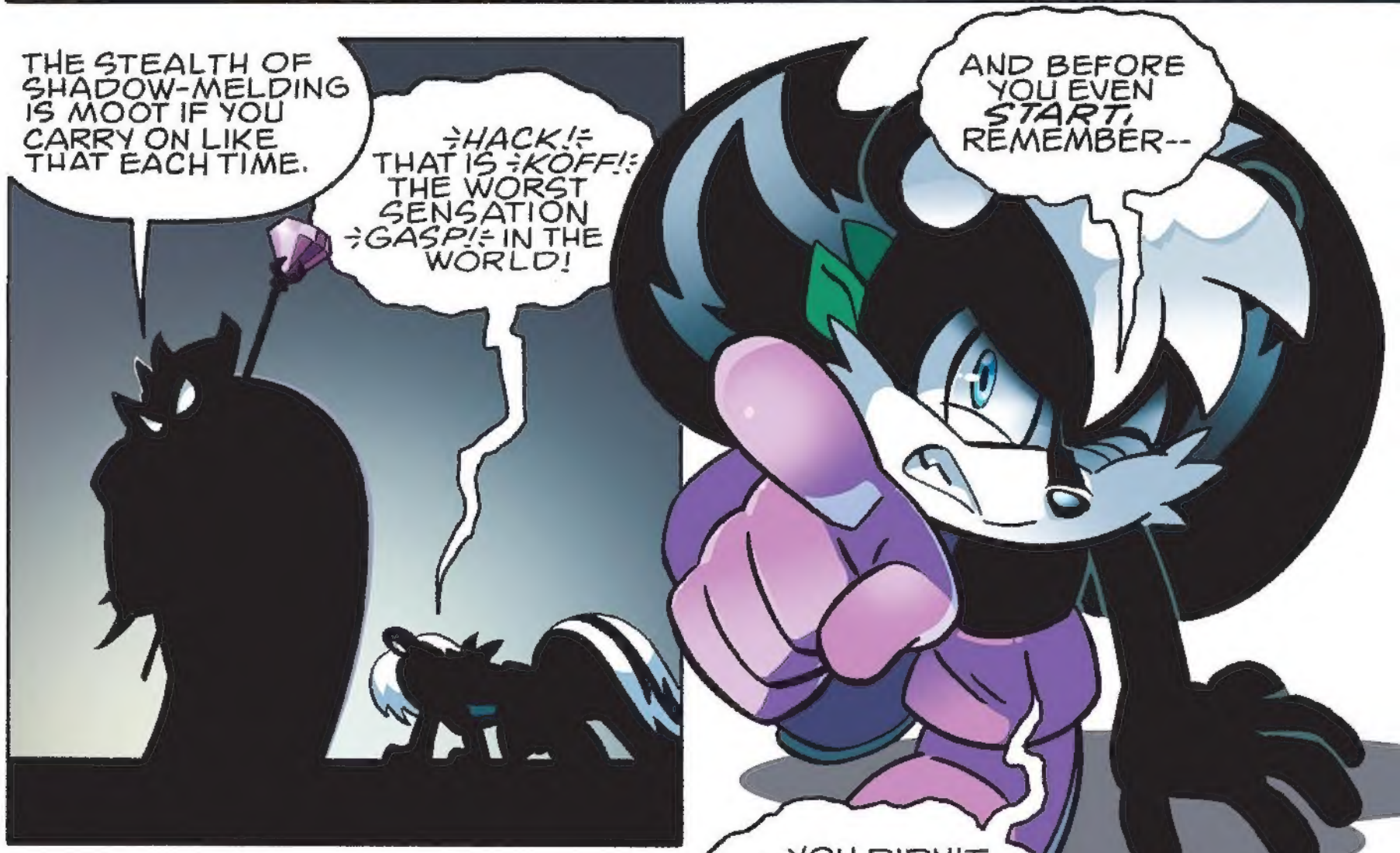
BETWEEN THAT AND KNOTHOLE, THE CITIZENS ARE RIGHTFULLY JUMPY.** BUT YOU'RE A FREEDOM FIGHTER, NICOLE. THEY'LL CALM DOWN EVENTUALLY.

**STH #175-176.

EXACTLY. TONIGHT WE'RE JUST GOING TO KICK BACK, ENJOY THE SHOW, AND NOT WORRY ABOUT STUFF LIKE POLITICS, OR EGGMAN MISSING...

FORGET-ME-KNOTS


"...OR WHAT HAPPENED TO GEOFFREY ST. JERK."
÷GASP!÷


THE STEALTH OF SHADOW-MELDING IS MOOT IF YOU CARRY ON LIKE THAT EACH TIME.
÷HACK!÷ THAT IS ÷KOFF!÷ THE WORST SENSATION ÷GASP!÷ IN THE WORLD!
AND BEFORE YOU EVEN START, REMEMBER--
--YOU DIDN'T STICK AROUND TO TEACH ME MORE THAN THE BASICS.

MY MAGIC MAY BE SUB-PAR, BUT IT'S MY SKILLS AND EXPER-IENCE...
...YOU'LL NEED TO GET THIS KINGDOM BACK.

AND IT'S PRECISELY THOSE TRAITS THAT HAVE ME ADVISING YOU *AGAINST* DOING THIS, MASTER.
FIRST-HAND RECONNAISSANCE IS GOOD, BUT THIS IS THE WRONG WAY TO DO IT.
THERE'S TOO HIGH A RISK OF BEING SEEN...
...AND MY PLAN DOESN'T WORK WITHOUT THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.
DO NOT LECTURE ME, BOY.
ER...NOT MY INTENTION, SIR. BUT THE PLAN...
IT IS A GOOD PLAN, BUT IT NEEDS MORE. WHAT WE NEED IS HERE TONIGHT. CAN YOU NOT *FEEL* IT IN THE AIR?
FEEL *WHAT*, SIR?
THE *FEAR*, GEOFFREY...

"...THAT POISON FOG OF FEAR!"

ALL RIGHT, GUYS! THIS IS IT!

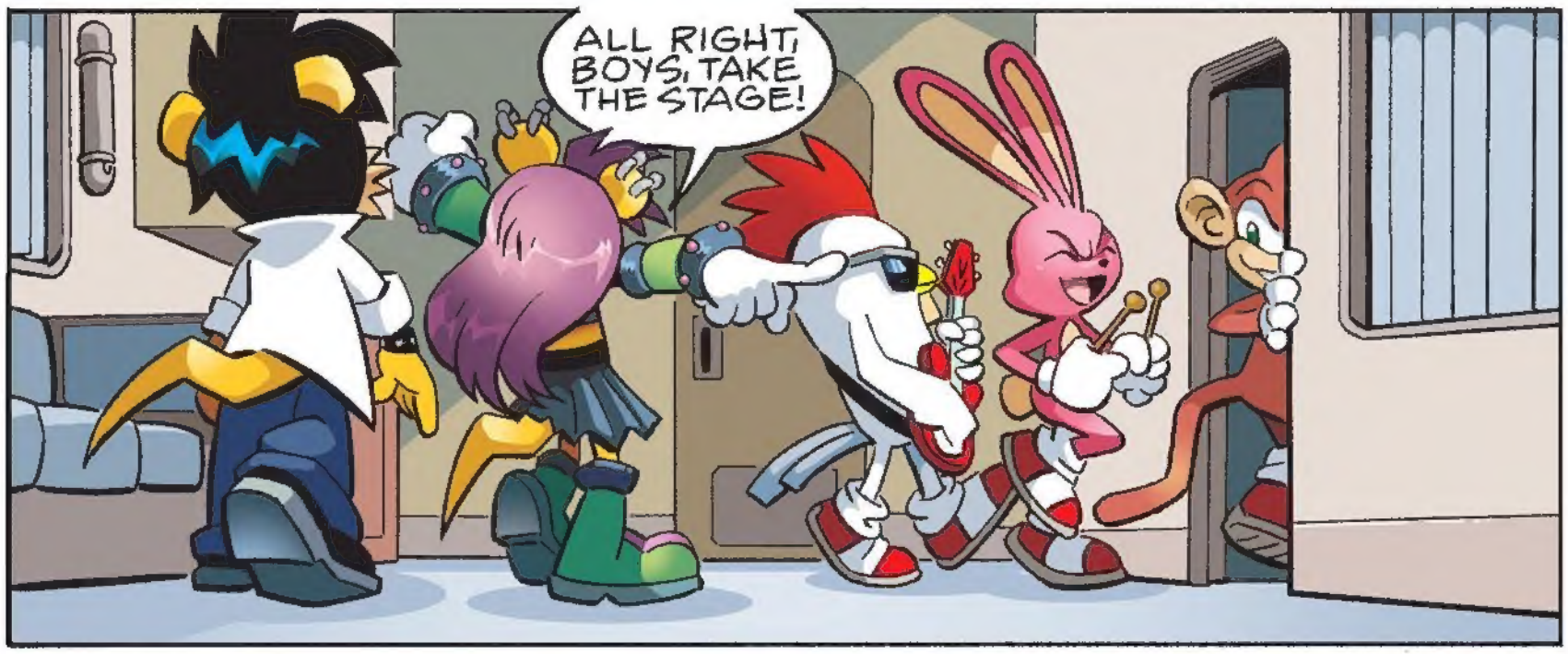
WE'RE GOING TO GO OUT THERE, AND WE'RE GOING TO WAKE THEM UP! WE'RE GOING TO TURN HEADS AND CHANGE MINDS! TONIGHT, WE DO MORE THAN REVAMP OUR SOUND! TONIGHT, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

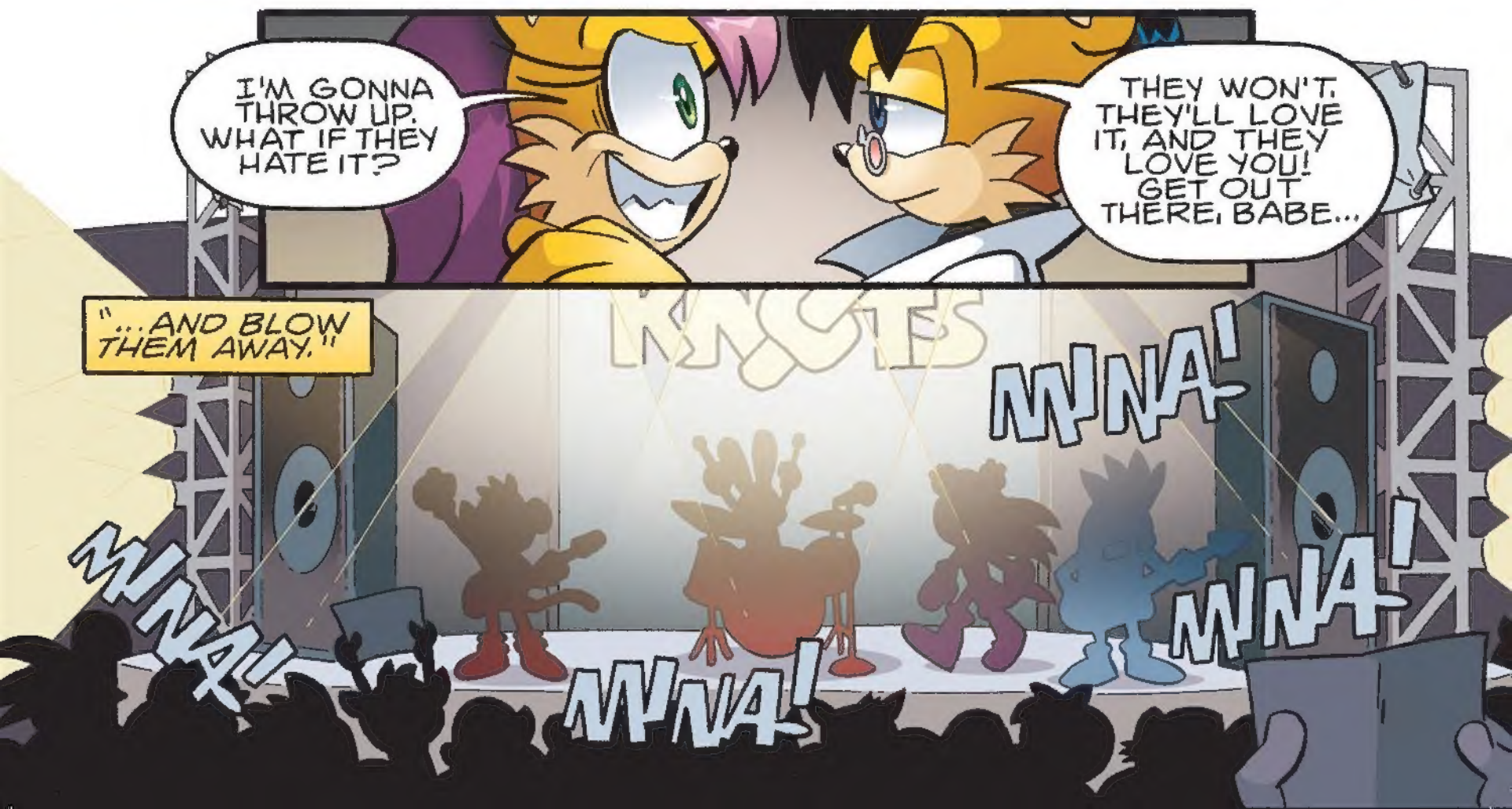
ARE YOU READY?!

...YEAH!

YEAH! YEAH-YEAH-YEAH!

YEAH!





YAAAAAAY
GOOD EVENING, NEW MOBO-TROPOLIS!
YOU KNOW ME. YOU KNOW THE BAND. BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THE TREAT YOU'RE IN FOR!
NO NEED TO START OFF GENTLY! THESE PEOPLE CAN TAKE IT!
HIT IT, SHARPS!
YAAAAAY
WHOA!
THAT'S NOT "OLD MINA"!
IT'S NOT, AND IT ROCKS!
WHOO!

I LIE AWAKE--! IN MY BED--! JUST CAN'T SLEEP--! FULL OF DREAD--
WILL THE NIGHTMARES COME FOR ME THIIIIIIIIS TIME?
IN THE DAY--! IN THE NIGHT--! NEVER KNOWING--! FULL OF FRIGHT--! WHY WON'T ANYONE LIIIIIIIIIIIIIISTEN?
I CAN'T ALWAYS BE JUMPING AT SHAAAAAAAAAADOWS! I CAN'T ALWAYS BE RUNNING AWAAAAAAAAY!
I WON'T BE AFRAID! I'LL SAVE MYSELF! I WON'T BE AFRAID! I'LL SAVE MYSELF!

SHE'S EVERYWHERE--! EVERYTHING--! BUT HEROES AREN'T LISTENING--! WE'RE ALL LEFT PRONE--! UNPROTEEEEECTED!
IT'S PAINFULLY-- OB-VI-OUS--! THEY WON'T ACT--! IT'S UP TO US--! WE WON'T LIVE IN FEAR OF THE CIIIIIIIIITY!
WE CAN'T ALWAYS BE JUMPING AT SHAAAAAAADOWS! WE CAN'T ALWAYS BE RUNNING AWAAAAAAAAAY!
WE WON'T BE AFRAID! WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES! WE WON'T BE AFRAID! WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!

WE WON'T BE AFRAID! WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!
WE WON'T BE AFRAID!
WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!
WE WON'T BE AFRAID!
...NICOLE?
WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!
WE WON'T BE AFRAID!
WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!
WE WON'T BE AFRAID!
WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!

CRIKEY. I KNEW THERE WAS SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE NANITES AND NICOLE, BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS THIS BAD.
IT WAS --AND IT WASN'T.
REGARDLESS, THIS WILL PLAY DIRECTLY INTO OUR--WAIT, WHAT?
HHHHHHHA HA HA! FEAR IS THE MIND-KILLER!
YOU...YOU'RE DOING THIS. YOU'RE USING YOUR MAGIC TO BLOW THEIR FEELINGS OUT OF PROPORTION.

JUST AS IN THE GREAT WAR...
...THEY WILL DO MORE THAN CALL FOR REFORM...
...THEY'LL BE BAYING FOR BLOOD!

YOU SEE, IT'S *THIS KIND* OF PASSION WE NEED! THIS KIND OF MOTIVATION!

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS SPEND ALMOST EVERY DAY PROTECTING US FROM DANGERS FROM THE *OUTSIDE*.

THANK YOU, EVERY-ONE!

THEY NEED *US* TO HANDLE THINGS *HERE* AT *HOME*!

AND OUR GOVERNMENT IS ELECTED *BY* THE *PEOPLE*! THEY HAVE TO *LISTEN* TO *US*!

WE WON'T BE AFRAID! WE WILL SAVE OURSELVES! AND WE DEMAND CHANGE-- *NOW*!

YEEEAAH!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT! ALL RIGHT! FOR OUR NEXT NUMBER...

AFTER THE CONCERT...
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! GOOD NIGHT, EVERYBODY! THANKS FOR COMING OUT!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU, BABE?! YOU WERE GREAT! THEY ATE IT UP! A COUPLE MORE SHOWS HERE, AND THEN WE'LL HIT THE ROAD TO--
UH...YOU GUYS GO IN FIRST.
YOU KNOW THEM BETTER THAN US.

HOW DID YOU GET PAST SECURITY?
PRINCESS.
SPEED OF SOUND? KINDA KNOWN FOR IT?
YOU CAN LINE UP FOR AUTO-GRAPHS LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE, HOG.
CUTE.
MINA'S MUSIC DOESN'T NEED YOUR DARK-AND-GLOOMY, "I'M SO SAD AND MISUNDER-STOOD" BAGGAGE.
MY--!?
NO, ASH.
THE NEW DIRECTION IS *MY* IDEA, SONIC. IT'S A MESSAGE THAT NEEDS TO BE HEARD...
...ESPECIALLY BY YOU.
SOMEONE WITH YOUR POPULARITY SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL WITH YOUR "MESSAGES." YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY WHEN--
RESPONSIBILITY ?!

WHAT ABOUT YOU AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS? BUNNIE, KHAN, *AND* NICOLE ALL GOT TURNED ON YOU! AND NICOLE RUNS THE CITY--*IS* THE CITY! HOW IS THAT "RESPONSIBLE"?!

WHILE YOU WERE HALF A WORLD AWAY...*

...*WE* WERE RUNNING FOR OUR LIVES! ANYWHERE WE HID COULD BE TURNED INTO A PRISON BY NICOLE!

WHILE YOU TALKED POLITICS OVER *THERE*, I SAW PEOPLE LEGIONIZED *HERE*! SO DON'T YOU *DARE* TALK TO ME ABOUT "RESPONSIBILITY!"

*SEE SU ARC # 4--"JOURNEY TO THE EAST," SU #s 13-16.

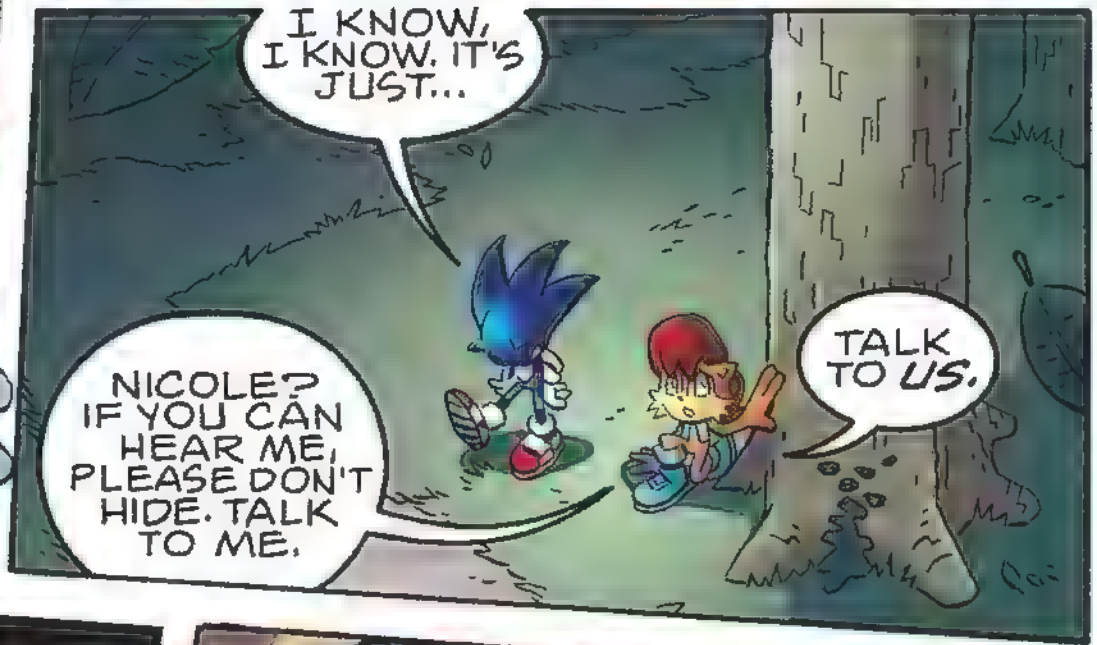
SO WE SHOULD'VE STAYED AND BEEN CAUGHT, TOO?

SAVE IT, SONIC. BUT ONE THING ABOUT NICOLE, MINA...

SHE WAS IN FULL CONTROL WHILE WE WERE GONE. AND SHE KEPT UP THE ACT TO PROTECT AS MANY AS POSSIBLE. SHE SAW *ALL* THE LEGIONIZING FIRST-HAND. AND SHE WAS AT YOUR CONCERT.

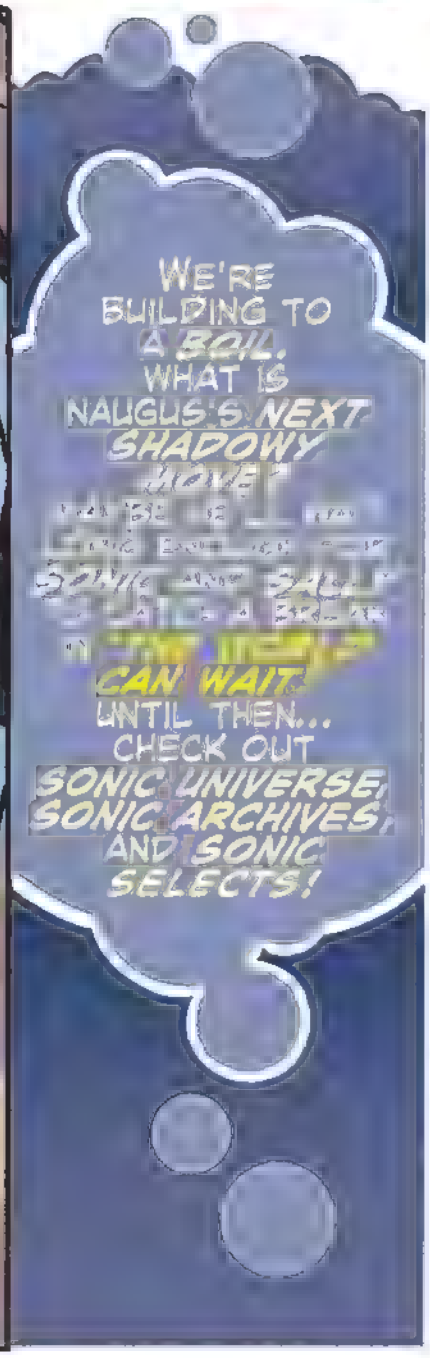
WE'RE NOT AFRAID!
WE'LL TAKE BACK OUR CITY!
DOES SHE FEEL IT IF I STOMP THE GROUND?
YOU LISTENING, COMPUTER? QUIT SPYING ON US!
I HOPE SO!
REMEMBER KNOTHOLE!
BRICK AND MORTAR!

MAYBE EGGMAN SHOULD COME BACK. SEE HOW FAST THESE INGRATES GO FROM "WAAAAH, SHE'S EVIL" TO "OH, SAVE US, NICOLE, WITH YOUR FORCE-FIELDS!"
DON'T SAY THAT...


I KNOW, I KNOW. IT'S JUST...
NICOLE? IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, PLEASE DON'T HIDE. TALK TO ME.
TALK TO US.

"WE'RE STILL YOUR FRIENDS."
FESTER IN YOUR FEAR, NEW MOBOTROPOLIS. BATHE IN YOUR TERROR!

...UNTIL YOU BEG ME TO ...SAVE YOU!


WE'RE BUILDING TO A BOIL. WHAT IS NAUGUS'S NEXT SHADOWY MOVE?
CAN WAIT. UNTIL THEN... CHECK OUT SONIC UNIVERSE, SONIC ARCHIVES, AND SONIC SELECTS!

SECOND IMPRESSIONS

PART ONE

WRITER: IAN FLYNN / PENCILS: JAMES FRY / INKS: TERRY AUSTIN / LETTERS: JOHN E. WORKMAN, JR. / COLORS: MATT HERMS

OH, I DID NOT REALIZE I HAD BEEN HERE THAT LONG.

GIVEN THE NATURE OF MINA'S SONG, I THOUGHT IT BEST TO GIVE YOU SOME TIME BEFORE VOICING MY CONCERN...

...AND I SUPPOSE ESPIO IS DOING THE SAME.

ESPIO?

YOU CERTAINLY KNOW A LOT FOR SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN "MISSING" FOR SO LONG.

I HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO THE CITY'S NETWORK. I COULD VIEW THE CONCERT--AND YOU COMING IN THE FRONT DOOR.

WHAT IS HE DOING HERE, NICOLE?!

SONIC AND TAILS RESCUED HIM!* WHEN SALLY FOUND OUT HE HAD BEEN LEFT FOR DEAD, SHE KNEW WE HAD TO SHOW HIM MERCY.

*SEE STH #212.

ESPIO...

WHAT? WHAT DOES A VILLAIN AND A TRAITOR HAVE TO SAY TO ME?!

AND YOU WOULD KNOW NOTHING ABOUT BEING BRANDED A TRAITOR? HMM? NOW TELL ME--DID YOU REALLY COME HERE TO THREATEN ME AND YELL AT NICOLE?

...NO.

NICOLE, I SAW YOU RUN FROM THE CONCERT. I...I CAME TO SEE IF YOU WERE OKAY.
YOU DID? BUT... WHY?
BECAUSE YOU HELPED ME HELP CHARMY.* AND BECAUSE THE IRON DOMINION USED US BOTH. I JUST... I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE EVERYONE'S TRUST.
OH...I-I MEANT... HOW DID YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T JUST DISAPPEAR INTO THE SYSTEM?
*SEE STH #169.
BECAUSE HE KNOWS YOU ARE NO LONGER A MERE PROGRAM, CHILD. A PROGRAM WOULD NOT RUN AWAY IN FEAR, OR WEEP ON THE FLOOR. HE KNEW WHERE HIS FRIEND THE MOBIAN WOULD GO.
RIGHT OR NOT, THIS IS DIMITRI, NICOLE! HOW COULD YOU NOT SAY SOMETHING? DOES KNUCKLES KNOW?
ONLY A SELECT FEW KNOW. HE'S PREPARING HIMSELF TO FACE KNUCKLES.
SHE'S BEING KIND. IN TRUTH, I FEAR FACING HIM AT ALL. WE HAVE BEEN SWORN ENEMIES FOR A VERY LONG TIME...I--I HAVE DONE HORRIBLE THINGS. BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME. I WORRY FOR YOU, NICOLE.

I AM AT A LOSS, DIMITRI!

I MADE THIS CITY FOR THE *PEOPLE*! I MADE IT SO I COULD ***BE*** WITH THEM!

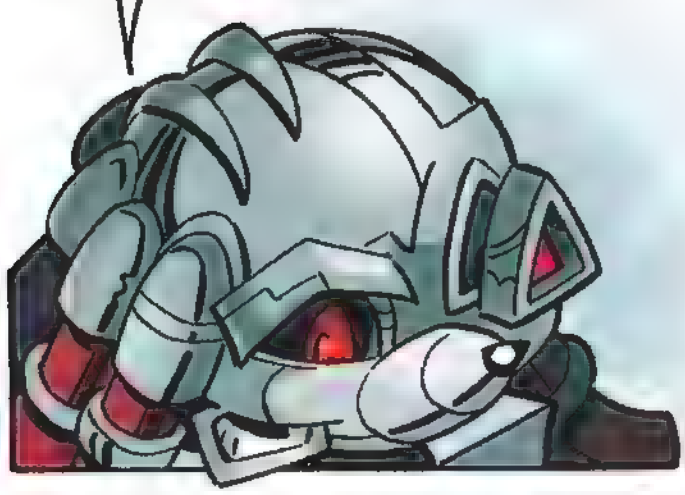
INSTEAD, THEY THINK I WILL TRAP THEM WITH IT, OR WORSE.

YOU LOST CONTROL OF ENORMOUS POWER BEFORE, DIMITRI. HOW DID YOU DEAL WITH THIS?

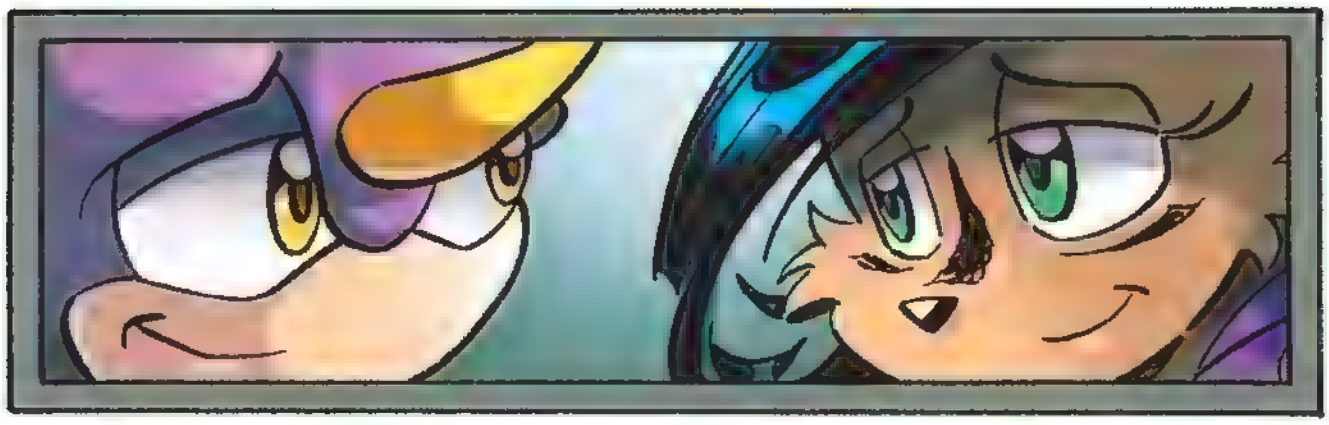
WHICH TIME DO YOU THINK SHE MEANS? WHEN YOU WERE ENERJAK, OR WHEN YOU WERE GRANDMASTER OF THE LEGION?

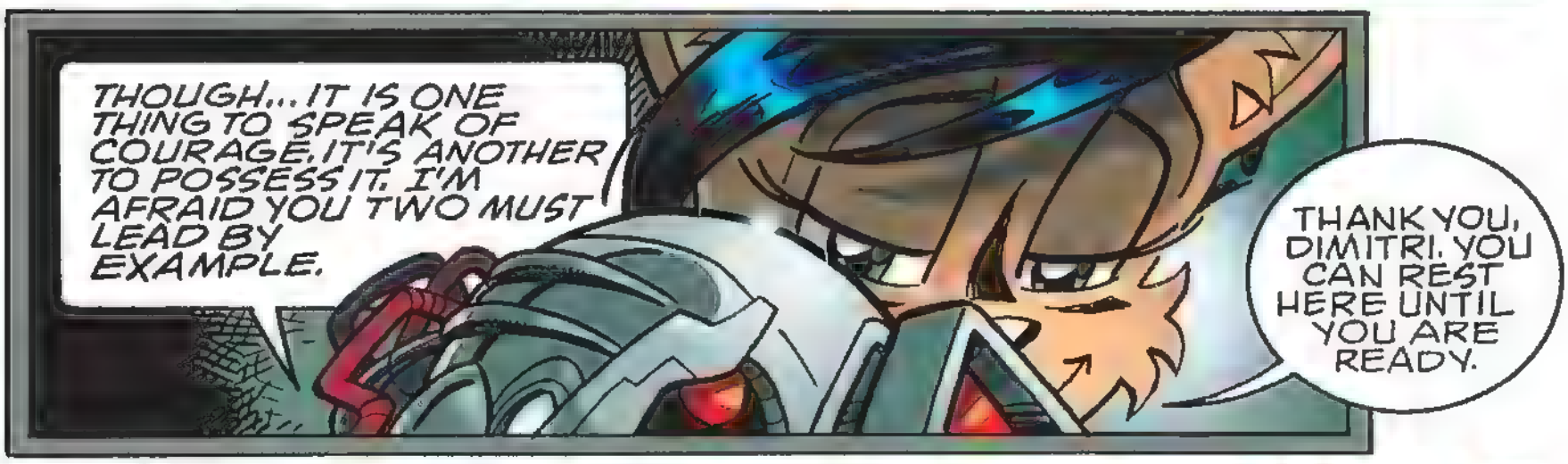
IN EITHER SCENARIO, I WAS TRYING TO EXERT MY WILL OVER REALITY, TO FORCE THINGS TO SUIT **ME** *RATHER THAN DEAL WITH THEM AS THEY WERE.*

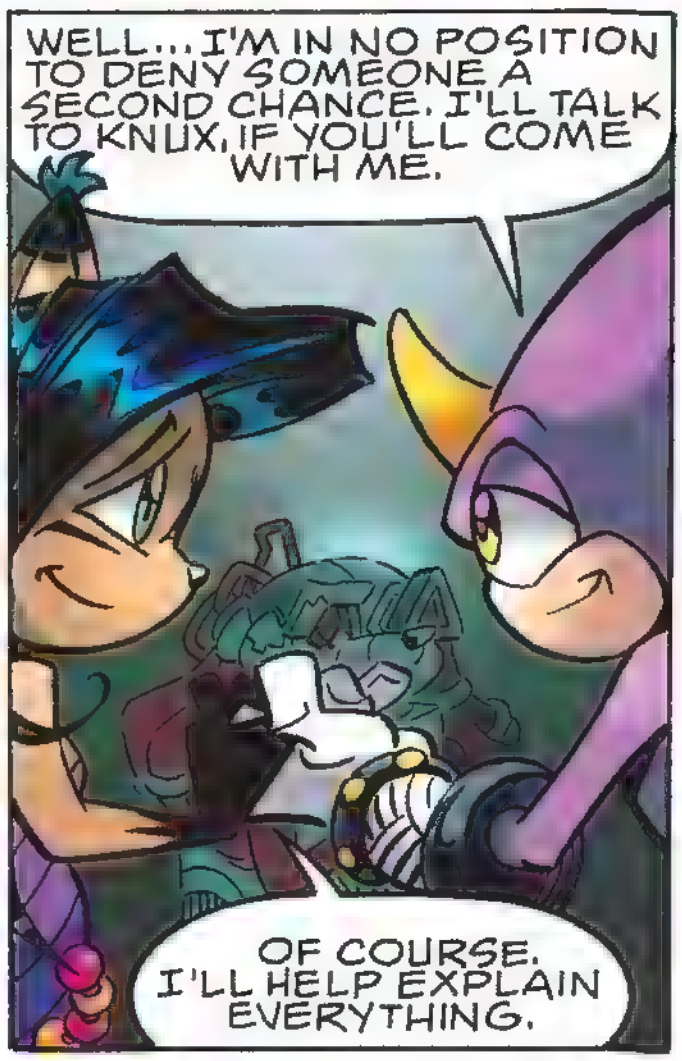
AND NOW LOOK AT ME. NEVER TO BE WITH MY FAMILY AGAIN. MY PEOPLE LED ASTRAY BY MY OWN SON. MY LEGACY A TWISTED, WRETCHED THING SERVING THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.



I WAS ***SELFISH.*** *YOU TWO HAVE SOMETHING THAT I HAD IGNORED...*



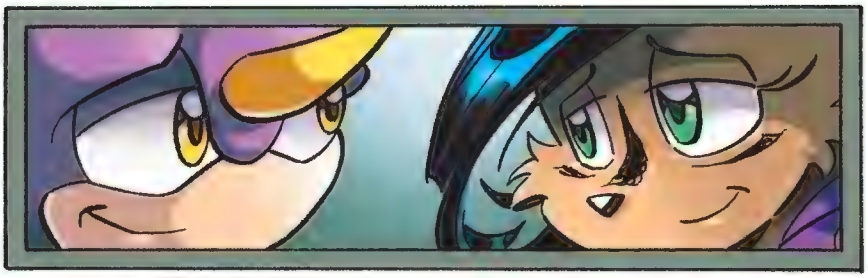




NEXT TIME

--KNUCKLES COMES FACE-TO-FACE WITH HIS OLDEST AND MOST PERSONAL FOE! WILL IT END IN PEACE--OR **PIECES?**

SEE YOU NEXT TIME!



YOU HAVE THE LOVE AND SUPPORT OF OTHERS. FRIENDS WHO WILL SEEK YOU OUT TO HELP YOU...

NICOLE, YOU MUST BE BRAVE AND FACE THE PUBLIC'S SCORN. THEY CANNOT HATE A FACELESS MONSTER OF THE SHADOWS WHEN SHE STANDS UP TO THEM WITH REASON.

THOUGH... IT IS ONE THING TO SPEAK OF COURAGE. IT'S ANOTHER TO POSSESS IT. I'M AFRAID YOU TWO MUST LEAD BY EXAMPLE.

THANK YOU, DIMITRI. YOU CAN REST HERE UNTIL YOU ARE READY.

NEXT TIME

--KNUCKLES COMES FACE-TO-FACE WITH HIS OLDEST AND MOST PERSONAL FOE! WILL IT END IN PEACE--OR **PIECES?**

SEE YOU NEXT TIME!

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the SONIC SPIN

an editorial column you say?! well la-dee-da

MINA ROCKS THE HOUSE!

The story you hold in your hands is really cool for me because it was one of the first ideas I worked out with Ian upon taking over editorial duties on Sonic. It started one Saturday morning as I started thinking about the events of the IRON DOMINION story over and over. I started thinking about what it would actually be like if the city you lived in came alive and tried to eat you – and who you'd blame.

Well, after a lengthy call to Ian about this idea, out came "Swan Song," later changed to "Changing Tempo" – a story in which a pop star decides to use her music to start a revolution of sorts so that something as horrible as the Iron Dominion invasion would never happen again. And I couldn't have asked for a better art team to deliver this story! How awesome was that concert scene?

CATCH YA NEXT MONTH,

Ryan 12/10

FUN FACT!

This issue marks penciller Ben Bates' very first Sonic the Hedgehog cover! Ben did the entire cover himself from sketch to color and you can catch a glimpse of Ben's process with these exclusive early sketches and rough cuts! (above)

'THEY'LL KNOW OF US WHEN I WANT THEM TO KNOW'
- DR. EGGMAN, SONIC #212

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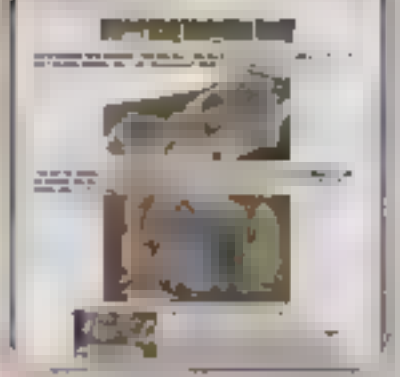

...AND MUCH MORE!

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THIS MONTH WE'RE SENDING A VERY SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT TO

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by Amber A. from Pennsylvania

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OFF PANEL

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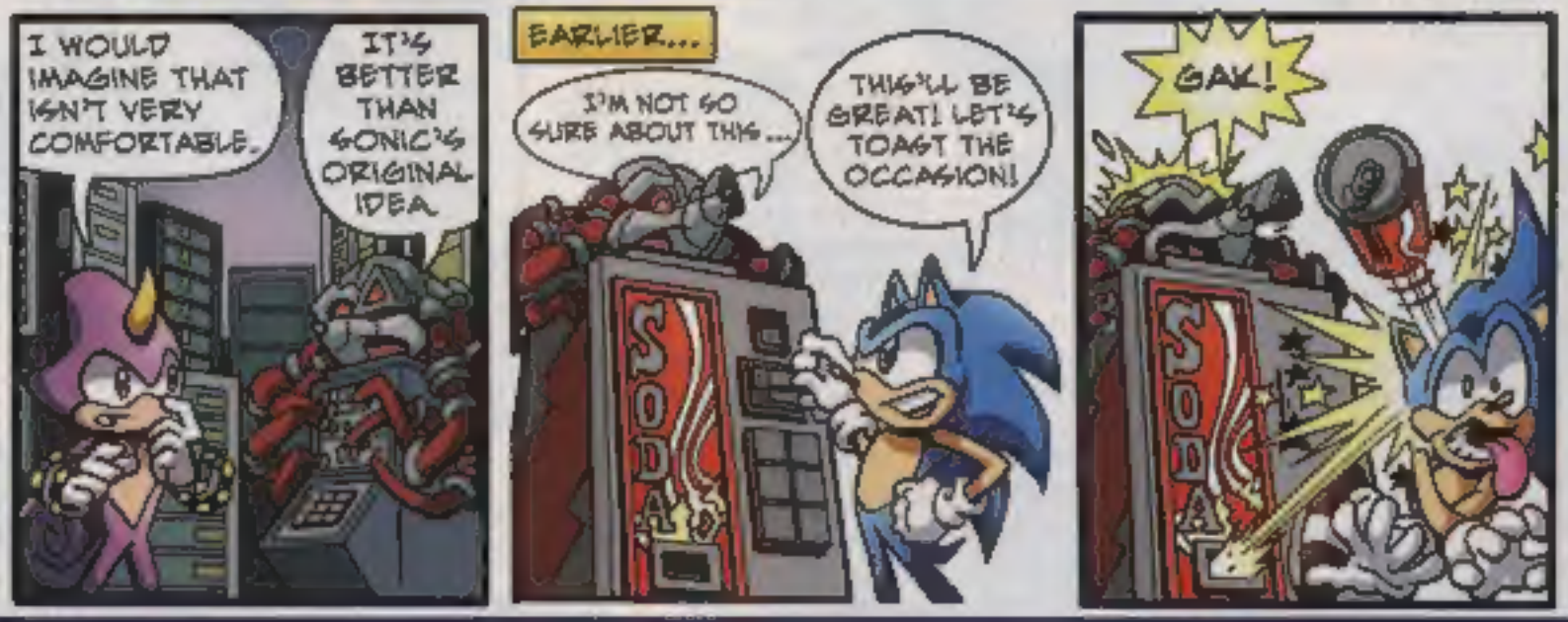

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SONIC-GRAMS

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P.O. BOX # 419 MAMARONECK NY 10543-0419 E-MAIL: SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

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LETTERS

DUE TO THE OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF FAN RESPONSE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLY TO EACH FAN. SPACE LIMITATIONS MAY REQUIRE SOME PRINTED LETTERS TO BE EDITED. ALL YOUR LETTERS ARE APPRECIATED!

Dear Sonic-Grams,
I LOVE SONIC!!!

There's plenty of him to go around!

I have a few questions.

You may fire when ready!

1) Will Cosmo be in Sonic Universe?

No plans for Cosmo... for the moment she'll be an exclusive resident of Sonic-X-re-run-ville.

2) Will the Iron Queen be back soon?

Outside of an upcoming cameo appearance? Not yet. But she will be back.

3) Will anyone turn into their "super" form soon?

Yes. Wait, define "soon"...

4) Will you make any story arcs for the upcoming Sonic games?

Did you check out the SONIC COLORS adaptation in issue #219??

5) Will the Battle Bird Armada be in the comic again?

Yes, and that story is a doozy!

6) Will the story following "Treasure Team Tango" over in Sonic Universe be about Mighty and Ray finding Mighty's sister?

TTT will be followed by the awesome awesomnatious awesomeness that is THE SILVER SAGA!!! But you are indeed correct, Mighty & Ray's adventure is far from over!

I'm going to write to "My Sonic Universe" too!

Sonic's #1 fan,
Shane R.
from Pennsylvania

Thanks for the letter, Shane!

Dear Sonic-Grams,
This is Trae, an old friend who sent a letter in August of 2008 about Amy Rose!

Welcome back to Sonic Grams, Trae!

I just have a few questions and concerns about Sonic and Tails' latest adventures. First off, it's good to see an old and new rivalry started with Speedy (SU17-20) and the Babylon Rogues of SONIC RIDERS fame.

In case anyone missed it, check out THE TAILS ADVENTURE arc from Sonic Universe for the full scoop!

Speaking of the Rogues, in Sonic #217, did I see Storm in silhouette in the Sand Blast City when Jack was talking to Sonic?

It certainly looked that way, didn't it? Fun fact: penciller-supreme Ben Bates initially drew Cream's silhouette in that panel, but we asked him to remove it because she was slated to premiere in that very issue!

Also in Sonic#217, is Matilda Mighty's sister? If so, please go ahead and let Mighty find her. And it looks like she is brainwashed...make sure Mighty un-brain-washes her!

That's TWO requests to see "the Mighty sister" follow-up! TWO! ah ah ah "thunder noises"

Finally, I would like to see soon what becomes of Fiona and the Destructix.

Patience, it's coming sooner than you think!

Alright guys, keep on doing it to it.

From one of your good friends and fans,
Trae H.
from Tennessee

P.S. - Good job on the art, Ben & Steven! You too, Tracy – don't let up!

Thanks for the letter, Trae, and thanks for the super cool drawing you included of Sonic racing Jet the Hawk!

Dear Sonic-Grams,
I wanted to know if the Sonic Team can make a site similar to archiedigital.com so I can catch up on the issues I missed; this includes Sonic the Hedgehog, Sonic X & Sonic Universe. It's no biggie but just a suggestion.

Gregoire P.
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

Download the brand new Sonic Comics app and get all the Sonic digital comics you want! See ya next month!

NEXT ISSUE:222

SONIC & SALLY, SITTIN' IN A TREE...
ROMANCE! ACTION! DIB NAUGUS! MONKEY KHAN! NEXT ISSUE! WOO!

"THE WORLD CAN WAIT"
ON SALE THE WEEK OF 03/08/11

NEXT SONIC UNIVERSE: 25

THE BATTLE FOR THE FUTURE BEGINS NEXT MONTH!

THE SILVER SAGA
PART ONE (OF FOUR)
SILVER TRACKS DOWN A MYSTERIOUS NEW VILLAIN, & DISCOVERS THE RETURN OF THE ULTIMATE EVIL!

ON SALE THE WEEK OF 2/22/11